

opening defining an inlet flow direction, an outlet defining an outlet flow direction and a conduit providing fluid communication between said first and second backflow preventor valves

wherein at least a first portion of said conduit is movable with respect to a second portion of said conduit in a non-screw-threaded relation, to cause [permit] a change in said outlet flow direction with respect to said inlet flow direction to any of an infinite number of outlet flow directions in a substantially leak-free manner.

5. (Amended) A backflow preventor assembly comprising:

first and second backflow preventor valves;
a housing encompassing said first and second backflow preventor valves, such that both of said valves automatically close if flow through said backflow preventor assembly drops below a predetermined value, said housing including an inlet opening defining an inlet flow direction, an outlet defining an outlet flow direction and a conduit providing fluid communication between said first and second backflow preventor valves

means for permitting movement of said outlet opening with respect to said inlet opening in a non-screw-threaded relation, to [permit] cause a change in said outlet flow direction with respect to said inlet flow direction to any of an infinite number of outlet flow directions in a substantially leak-free manner.

7. (Amended) A method for adjusting outflow direction in a backflow preventor assembly comprising:

providing first and second backflow preventor valves;

encompassing said first and second backflow preventor valves in a housing, such that both of said valves automatically close if flow through said backflow preventor assembly drops below a predetermined value, said housing including an inlet opening defining an inlet flow direction, an outlet defining an outlet flow direction and a conduit providing fluid communication between said first and second backflow preventor valves

moving at least a first portion of said conduit with respect to a second portion of said conduit in a non-screw-threaded relation, to cause a change in said outlet flow direction with respect to said inlet flow direction to any of an infinite number of outlet flow directions in a substantially leak-free manner.

9. (Amended) A backflow preventor apparatus for connection to parallel, oppositely-flowing inlet and outlet conduits, comprising:

a housing configured to accommodate first and second valves, and to receive fluid flow from said inlet conduit flowing in a first direction;

a first valve mounted in said housing having a seatable valve disc having an edge, movable between a closed configuration preventing flow and an open configuration permitting flow in the absence of substantial divergent flow around the edge of said first valve disc;

a second valve mounted in said housing having a seatable valve disc having an edge, movable between a closed configuration preventing flow and an open configuration permitting flow in the absence of substantial diverging flow around the edge of said second valve disc;

said fluid flow having an average streamline path between said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit wherein the sum of changes in flow direction of said average streamline path is not substantially greater than about 180 degrees;

said first valve disc, when in said open configuration, being positioned to direct said flow from said first direction to provide flow in a second direction towards said second valve;

said second valve disc, when in said open configuration, being positioned to direct said flow from said second direction to a third direction towards said outlet conduit; and

wherein said housing is reconfigurable in a non-screw-threaded to a second configuration to [direct] cause a change in said flow from said second direction to a fourth direction, different from said third direction wherein said fourth direction is any of an infinite number of outflow directions.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the office action mailed November 25, 1992. In that office action, the Examiner noted that the first office action of August 6, 1992, crossed in the mail with a preliminary amendment which added claims 10-13. Accordingly, the Examiner has now withdrawn the action on the merits of August 6, 1992. In the interim, Applicants had filed an amendment in response to the office action of August 6, 1992. This amendment was filed on November 6, 1992. Because the action on the merits of August 6, 1992 had been withdrawn, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to disregard the amendment filed November 6, 1992.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that the application has been corrected in compliance